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Carolina Writers Invite Community Into World of Words

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Carolina Writers Invite Community Into World of Words

Quick Facts

- Designed to engage and inspire writers and readers alike, the day-long festival will take place at six venues across First Ward between 11 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- The first-time festival is the brainchild of the Charlotte Writers' Club, which partnered with like-minded organizations from around the region.



CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA — Uptown Charlotte's First Ward will be awash in writers on Oct. 15. Poets, novelists, screenwriters, playwrights, comedy writers, lyricists and storytellers all will be in Charlotte as part of Carolinas WordFest.

Designed to engage and inspire writers and readers alike, the day-long festival will take place at six venues across First Ward between 11 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. **Carolinan WordFest** features more than 20 writers who are North or South Carolina natives or current residents.

The first-time festival is the brainchild of the **Charlotte Writers' Club**, which partnered with like-minded organizations from around the region.

"The Carolinas have so many talented writers, and we want to share that wealth with the entire community," said **Gina Carroll Howard**, WordFest coordinating committee chair. "The festival will offer a smorgasbord of events for all ages and literary tastes. We hope that people will go to hear the writers they love and stay to sample others new to them. And maybe they'll be inspired to write themselves."

Carolinan WordFest has events for different ages.

Children's and young adult activities, which take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in **First Ward Park** and at **ImaginOn**, include a pumpkin patch, storytelling, children's bookmaking and a panel of writers for young adults who will explain how they capture teens' imaginations.

In "Voices of the New South: the Latino Experience" at the **Levine Museum of the New South**, three writers will give voice to women, children and teens in the Carolinas who are caught between two worlds.

The **Main Library's** and **Spirit Square's Knight Gallery** are the locations for 10 morning and afternoon sessions on screenwriting; storytelling; poetry, fiction and nonfiction workshops; improv; musical storytelling and drama. And audience members can help one playwright rework one of his plays.

Additionally, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Park Road Books** will operate a book market at the **Main Library** that will feature the participating writers' works, and food trucks will be in **First Ward Park** on 8th Street.

The festival closes with improv, spoken word poetry and readings from selected plays for more mature audiences. The evening program at **Spirit Square's Knight Gallery** begins at 7 p.m..

Carolinas WordFest sponsors are the Charlotte Writers' Club, Kiser, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Gallery Books, Baker & Taylor, Kensington Publishing Corp., Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, Workman, Winthrop University, WFAE 90.7fm.

For more information, contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2404 or longshawj@winthrop.edu.

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